bank Redeployment of staff in Regi Dnal Rural Banks (RRBs) evolved by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) pursuant to recommendations of the Working Group on Manpower Planning in RRBs. NABARD has reported that the JRB has not agreed to the proposed deputation on account of resultant adverse impact on its financial position. The Officers' Association of JRB had also represented against the proposed deputation of migrant officers of KRB. J & K Bank Ltd., has subsequently decided that JRB will not be forced to absorb the officers of KRB on deputation.

**Pipeline Project of GAIL**

*554. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Wiil the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rates submitted by each company for laying of 670 Km. B.J. pipeline and the names of the companies whose rates were approved by the Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) what are the details of orders placed with each company;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tender of one company was rejected at the trial stage and if so, on what ground it was again approved; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that rules were changed to suit the selected company which has no previous experience of this nature?

THE MINISTER OFPETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) had invited tenders for (1) procurement of line pipe and (2) laying of pipeline, for Hazira-Bijapur-Jagadishpur (HBJ) upgradation project. Tender for laying of pipeline has not been finalised and is under evaluation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Time-schedule of Flights**

*555. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CPVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for frequent changes in the time-schedule of the flights in the eastern region (including north-east) during the last three months when weather happened to be fair;

(b) the number of flights delayed or cancelled between Kolkata and Agartala^Agartala and Guwahati and Guwahati and Kolkata;

(c) what were the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such situation and to keep passengers free from such troubles; and

(e) the plans to improve air-journey in the NER?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Indian Airlines operates two major shedules every year for the summer and winter seasons, in which changes are made keeping in view the operational requirements to meet contingencies. Some changes, in the time schedule of flights in the Eastern Region were, however made during the last three months due to runway works at Agartala air field, adjustments required after the introduction of ATR flights and withdrawal of one aircraft to meet other operational requirements.

(b) and (c) The number of flights cancelled or delayed between Kolkata-Agartala, Guwahati-Agartala and Guwahati-Kolkata during the last three months and those attributable to inclement weather was as under:

| sectors | number oftake offs | Cancellations | Delays | Cancellations and delays due to inclement of weather |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata | 366 | 2 | 158 | 137 |
| Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati | 170 | 2 | 132 | 108 |
| Guwahati-Kolkata-Guwahati | 182 | 2 | 66 | 32 |

(d) Indian Airlines makes all efforts to improve its on time performance. All delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken. At the regional level a meeting between the representatives of Operating Departments is held every day to review the operations of the previous 24 hours with a view to identify areas where delays could have been eliminated or the extent of delays reduced.

Engineering delays are dealt with a special emphasis. At the Base Stations, the delay is analysed to identify the cause and nature of a snag. In case a snag is frequent special maintenance action is immediatly initiated to ensure that the

snag does not persist. At the corporate level, the punctuality of services is closely monitored on a daily basis.

In each Region, a meeting to evaluate the reliability of systems for the aircraft based in that Region is held periodically. In this meeting the Defect rate of various aircraft systems is studied and analysed. In the case of an increase either the Time Between Overhaul is reduced or modifications are carried out in consultation with the manufacturer and the DGCA.

(e) Indian Airlines has provided new airlinks, increased frequency and added new stations in the North-East as under:

| | New Airlinks | Date of Introduction |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Silchar/Agartala/Silchar | 15-04-2003 |
| 2 | Guwahati/Aizawl/Guwahati | 05-04-2003 |
| 3. | Kolkata/Shillong/Kolkata | 07-04-2003 |
| 4. | Dirnapur/Guwahati/Dimapur | 02-01-2003 |
| 5. | Patna/Bagdogra | 25-04-2002 |
| 6. | Patna/Guwahati | 25-04-2002 |
| 7. | Guwahati/Lilabari | 09-10-2002 |
| & | Kolkata/Gaya | 18-12-2002 |
| | Increase in frequency | Frequency |
| 1. | Kolkata/Agartala/Kolkata | From 13 to 19 |
| 2 | Kolkata/Aizawl/Kolkata | From 03 to 06 |
| 3. | Kolkata/ Silchar/ Kolkata | From 06 to 10 |
| 4. | Silchar/Guwahati/Silchar | From 02 to 04 |
| 5. | Kolkata/Guwahati/Kolkata | From 07 to 14 |
| 6. | Guwahati/Lilabari/Guwahati | From 02 to 03 |
| 7. | Guwahati/ Agartala/Guwahati | From 03 to 07 |
| 8. | Kolkata/ Dimapur/Kolkata | From 04to07 |

New stations

Shillong

**Conservation of water reserves**

*556. SHRIDATTAMEGHE:WmtneMinisterforWATERRESOURCES be pleased to state :